

## **Minutes of UEC Meeting**

September 9, 2005

Members present: B. Johnson, C. Vale, J. Hill, B. Morse, M. Sivertz, M. Lisa, S. White-DePace, P. Bond, D. Lowenstein, S. Aronson, T. Roser, P. Steinberger  
BNL attendees: T. Throwe, B. Viren  
Phone: A. Deshpande, M. Grosse-Perdekamp, G. Westfall, J. Sowinski, J. Velkovska  
Invited Speakers: M. Lynch (CEGPA) & T. Schlagel (ITD)

### **Working Meeting**

#### **Brant Johnson: Opening Remarks**

- New meeting format being tried: detail meeting first, “general” meeting next
- Dates for UEC meetings are set (see [http://www.bnl.gov/userscenter/UsersGroup/Committee/meeting\\_schedule\\_05-06r1.pdf](http://www.bnl.gov/userscenter/UsersGroup/Committee/meeting_schedule_05-06r1.pdf) ). Times are still to be finalized, but likely to straddle noontime.
- June 12-16, 2006 is set for annual meeting
- There was general agreement with Brant’s organization of new meeting format and committees

#### **John Hill: Meetings, Ccommunications, & Outreach Working Group**

- General support for John’s proposal of central “database” of materials for presentation to larger community. This will be discussed with Marge Lynch this afternoon.
- Convenors found for subgroups on Users’ meeting workshops (Lisa) and open forums (Sivertz). Abhay agrees to convene Outreach subgroup.
- Suggested that Sivertz convene BNL-based open forums and Hill does off-site (e.g. Maui) meetings. Still need to discuss/define exact job description of these Convenors.
- Send comments to John ASAP if there are crucial issues to prepare for Maui.
- Discussed video conferencing. It was not clear that we should do videoconferencing at all. Will discuss by email.

#### **Susan White-DePace: Site Access & Science Working Group**

- Discussed computer organization (e.g. “computer enclaves”) status
- Susan identifies as major concern coming down the pike: ITD might not use PeopleSoft-based repository of information of users and account privileges.
- Susan identified issues with HSPD-12 which are not clear as of now. (See slides for details.)
- Susan wants:

- UEC to ask BNL to only agree to electronic fingerprints and form submission.
- John Lajoie was chosen to do “external” review of accreditation documents for T. Throw and B. Viren.

### **Gary Westfall: QOL Working Group**

- Westfall asked how to solicit user feedback. Questionnaires have proven useful. Carla volunteers to dig up how it was done before, and find the results on the web.
- White-DePace volunteered to find out what other user groups ask their users.
- UEC was asked to actively solicit input on QOL issues at the Open Forum in Maui.

### **Brant Johnson: Funding, Politics, & Programmatics Working Group**

- Presented membership. Morse will be Convenor for Programmatics sub-group; Velkovska volunteers to work with him.
- Visits to D.C. : two types
  - Hill will organize user visits to Wash. DC
  - Brant will organize visit of three-chairs to Wash. DC
  - White-DePace noted that Pat Looney suggests that the UEC visit to Washington happen now (i.e. in October) not waiting until spring.
- Derek Lowenstein suggests that this group should also push experimental spokespersons to develop long-range physics plans.

## **General Meeting**

Guests not present at first part: Derek Lowenstein, Sam Aronson, Marge Lynch, Peter Bond, Tom Schlagel and Tom Roser

### **Marge Lynch: CEGPA Overview**

- CEGPA works to communicate (media/online/etc) programmatic issues (e.g. sensitive issues to community like environmental concerns, and science achievements/goals to science writers)
- Also helps users/RHIC facility get the message across in things like recent NSAC review
- Matthias points out that outreach/communications efforts like this need to avoid a stance of “competition” with JLab or RIA. All agree in general.
- Public relations people at Universities should get in touch with CEGPA to coordinate.
- Event in early February 2006 in Washington to coordinate with world year of physics (2005). This is when congress starts discussing science budget.
- CEGPA solicits and welcomes user input and participation in PR/outreach

- Related: Users can help with connections to local politicians (US representatives) in addition to the New York Congress members (who are largely not of the majority party)
- Vis-à-vis previous suggestion about RHIC presentation “database,” Marge says they have lots of such material which they will make available, and will manage input that users’ group collects/develops

### **Tom Schlager: Certification & Accreditation and HSPD-12**

- Defined certification and accreditation enclaves. Nontrivial. See slides.
- Many possible actions related to HSPD-12 on Tom’s slides. Many consequences to users brought up by Tom and others (e.g. Matthias). But it was emphasized many times by Tom Schlager and Tom Throw that everything is in enormous flux.
- Other labs (e.g. Fermilab) appear to be doing very little to address these issues, since it is not clear when or if they will change.
  - No consistent approach so far.